



81 Days of Progress

INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

City of San Diego

WEEKLY UPDATE: October 31, 2013

Yesterday marked the completion of my first two months as San Diego's interim mayor. And there have been some big changes this week that I want to expand on a bit.

First, we bid farewell to our Chief Operating Officer Walt Ekard, who served the City enormously well during a challenging time, to put it mildly. He is making a well-deserved return to retirement, and all San Diegans owe him a debt of gratitude for his service. I cannot put into words the impact Walt and his successor have had in this transition period. We have moved forward successfully because of the work of these gentlemen and the team of City employees they lead.

Second, we welcome Scott Chadwick as the new COO of the City of San Diego. I appreciate the City Council's unanimous confirmation of Scott on Tuesday and am confident in his abilities to lead our 10,000 employees and support the priorities of our City.

Third, this week the City Council unanimously supported my plan to reorganize city government. As I mentioned during the Council hearing, these are a series of strategic tweaks that will help the organization run more smoothly, saving time and money.

- Decisions will be made more quickly.
- Information will be shared more efficiently.
- We will become more proactive and less reactive.
- And we will be much more aggressive at cultivating and promoting talented employees to advance within the organization.

I'm proud that I will be able to pass along these changes to the next mayor. Quite simply, our city government will be a much more resilient and better-run operation as a result of this reorganization.

Mary Lewis as New CFO: There are two additional personnel announcements I will make today.

The first is that we have successfully lured back Mary Lewis to become the city's Chief Financial Officer. As most of you know, Mary has been working at SDCERS for the past two years as their Chief Financial Officer. Before that, she spent six years with the

city, first as Financial Management Director and then as Chief Financial Officer. She is a tireless worker with impeccable judgment and she is the very definition of competence. We're lucky to have her back with us.

Stacey LoMedico as New Assistant Chief Operating Officer: I'm also extremely proud to announce that Stacey LoMedico will become the city's Assistant Chief Operating Officer. As many of you know, Stacey has been the city's Park and Recreation Director since 2007 and has done a truly wonderful job for us. She knows almost everything there is to know about how the city operates, having spent three decades working her way up from an intern to her current job. In her long and successful career with the city, she has worked in the City Manager's office, the Public Utilities Department, the Engineering and Capital Projects Department and the Park and Recreation Department, gaining more and more responsibilities with every step. She is a problem solver and a straight shooter. We are lucky to have someone with her talents in such an important position.

Adding these high caliber people into leadership positions will allow additional progress for our City. And I want to take the opportunity to shift gears and address some of the other newsworthy things going on in the City this week.

Food Trucks: I want to give a brief update about food trucks. I'll start by correcting what appears to be the misimpression that we're actively cracking down on food trucks in San Diego. That's simply not true. Our code officers aren't going out there looking for violations. They simply respond when they receive complaints from the community. To date, we have received only three complaints. In each of these three cases, we issued a warning and each time the food truck complied with the warning without the need for the city to issue a fine.

In the meantime, we're continuing to advocate for an ordinance that would change the municipal code and allow food trucks to operate legally on private property, something they currently aren't allowed to do under the municipal code.

I'm as big a fan of food trucks as everybody else and I'm confident we can find a way to solve this issue in a manner that is satisfactory to the food trucks, their customers and the neighborhoods where they operate.

Boards and Commissions: When I became interim mayor, one of the problems that needed immediate attention was the scores of vacancies on the city's numerous boards and commissions. I'm proud to announce that we're making rapid progress on this front. On Monday the Council made more than 20 appointments to four critical boards and commissions: the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board; the Commission for Arts and Culture; the Small Business Advisory Board; and the Youth Commission. Our work in this area is not done. During the remainder of my time in this office, I intend to bring forth more appointments on a routine basis until we can fill as many of the remaining vacancies as possible.

EMS: Also this week, I announced that the City would be releasing the approved request for proposals for our next emergency medical services provider. Because the approved RFP was developed in part by Fire-Rescue staff, the Department will not be able to bid on this contract. The RFP is for a term of five years.

I have heard the call that people want Fire-Rescue to have the opportunity to bid.

I want to give Fire-Rescue the opportunity to successfully bid. We are not yet positioned to do that.

For that to occur, I have asked Chairwoman Emerald to work with the Fire-Rescue Department to prepare a plan of action, complete with budgets and timelines, to better position the Department to bid at the next opportunity.

No one questions that Fire-Rescue has the knowledge and experience to design an EMS delivery system that would provide good service. Chief Mainar brought up two key operational risks of pursuing a new RFP that I couldn't overlook: we could be left with an EMS system that our Fire-Rescue Department had no say in, and we would lose the system improvements that were written in to the current RFP.

It's critical to note that EMS RFPs must also consider the financial resources of bidders so that the operations proposed can be implemented and maintained over the course of the contract.

The system sustainability considerations and risks include:

- ambulance cost;
- questionable legality of Proposition B and how that could impact the benefits of new employees hired for this system;
- potential interpretation of Proposition 26 on the amount we could charge;
- the recently implemented Affordable Care Act and how that may change the usage of our system and collections;
- the City's public liability fund; and
- providing safeguards to our General Fund.

San Diegans deserve a sustainable and stable EMS system. For me, that means a system that does not put the rest of the City's services at risk because of unknowns.

I look forward to working with Councilmember Emerald and our public safety professionals to invest in our internal resources so that Fire-Rescue is much better positioned to compete in the future.

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